

Electric Utility Safety Advisory Committee (EUSAC) Minutes
May 11th 2021
9:30 a.m.
IBEW 77 Hall
19415 International Blvd.
SeaTac, WA 98188-5308

The EUSAC is an advisory committee consisting of IBEW and employer representatives from Washington utilities and utility contractors and the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). The mission of the EUSAC is to promote the safety and health of the electrical worker and the public through communication, with consensus recommendations made to L&I.

Chair: Charles Campy, Local 77
Recording Secretary: Travis Englehart

1. Self-Introductions

Self-introductions were not conducted as the meeting was held via web and phone.

2. Old Business

a. L&I Website:

- i. Ron Langley and Paul Marsh of L&I shared an update. Work is ongoing on search functionality and in other areas. L&I needs feedback on search topics.
- ii. Travis Englehart will arrange a discussion for the EUSAC small committee to gather feedback, then arrange a meeting of the small committee and L&I staff.

b. WAC 296-45 Reprint:

- i. Still waiting for all copies of current printing to be distributed before the recently corrected version is printed.

c. Wildfire Smoke Rulemaking:

- i. Travis Englehart shared an update from stakeholder meetings held by L&I so far. It seems Washington will closely follow California's emergency rule. A main sticking point has been the requirement to implement a required use respiratory protection program when air quality surpasses a certain threshold.
- ii. Steve Cant shared that another stakeholder meeting is expected in June. Another difficulty we'll encounter is accurately identifying air quality in the actual work location.
- iii. The group discussed potential air quality thresholds communicated by L&I so far.
- iv. Other discussion followed on potential impacts of this rule on the utility industry.
- v. RJ Fronsman shared that there is at least one arc-rated N95 respirator available on the market.

- vi. Rex Habner shared that a full-face respirator may be a consideration in extreme conditions due to its impact on the eyes/vision.

d. Crane Rulemaking:

- i. Tracy Harness shared that it appears as though our industry will maintain its digger/derrick exemption, but it is important we participate in stakeholder meetings when they occur.
- ii. Paul Kiss at SnoPUD has met with Bill Sloniker at L&I to demonstrate and clarify how digger/derricks are used in our industry.
- iii. Jim Boyd relayed information from Terri Neely at L&I that stakeholder meetings are currently being scheduled.

3. New Business

a. Items from L&I:

- i. Jim Boyd relayed comments from Terri Neely at L&I: Governor's Safety Conference is still on track for September 2021. Pole top planning committee is hard at work and Rod Julian has secured two workshops.
- ii. Steve Cant brought up Senate Bill 5115 related to establishing health emergency labor standards. Employers should make themselves aware as there may be impacts.

b. Items from the IBEW:

- i. Damian Hernandez shared that Local 77 has expanded its delegation: Jake Morgan, Jesus (Chuy) Diaz, Trenton Hornbeck, Sean Brehmeyer.

c. Items from Employers:

- i. Travis Englehart shared that L&I is engaged in rulemaking related to rescue planning for trenching and excavation operations. A stakeholder meeting is planned for Friday, 5/14/2021.

4. Accidents / Near-Misses

- a. An electrical contact occurred in Montana. A worker experienced a contact performing overhead work. A generator was connected at a commercial site and backfed onto the primary.
- b. The apprentice who fell from a pole in Oregon has returned to work on light duty and is recovering well.
- c. We must continue to remind workers of the importance of grounding and creating equipotential zones. With new technology we may not always hear a generator when a backfeed condition exists.
- d. Dick Maxwell discussed the importance of proper energy source control when generators are used, as well as the importance of a thorough understanding by employees of why and how to ground.

5. Other Items of Interest Relevant to EUSAC

- a.** Damian Hernandez reminded everyone that Local 77 will investigate any incidents involving its members in its jurisdiction that it is aware of. If you know of incidents needing investigation, please let the Local know.
- b.** Damian shared that the PNW lineman's rodeo (7/24 in Gresham, OR) and Montana lineman's rodeo (7/16-17 in Butte, MT) are still planned to occur this year.
- c.** 2021 EUSAC meetings will be held on the following dates:

 - i. August 10
 - ii. November 16